



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

www.state.gov

December 7, 2012

Dear Senator Graham:

I am writing in response to your 6 December 2012 letter to the Accountability Review Board (the "Board") for Benghazi at the Department of State.

I appreciate this opportunity to share information about the Board's work related to the attacks in Benghazi. In accordance with Section 301 of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (the "Act"), 22 U.S.C. § 4831 *et seq.*, the Secretary is charged with establishing an Accountability Review Board to report to her when there is loss of life at a U.S. government mission abroad where the cause may be related to security. The Secretary appointed this Board on 19 September 2012, and announced it in the Federal Register on 4 October 2012. The Board first convened on 5 October 2012 and has been working diligently since then; we anticipate completing our mandate on or near the initial schedule of 60 days.

Consistent with the Act, the Board's mandate is to make written findings to the Secretary determining:

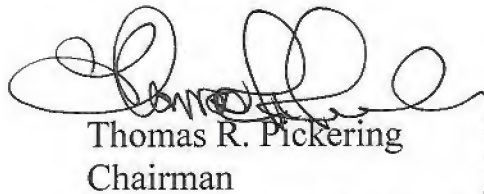
- 1) The extent to which the incident or incidents with respect to which the Board was convened was security related;
- 2) Whether the security systems and security procedures at our mission in Benghazi were adequate;
- 3) Whether the security systems and security procedures were properly implemented;
- 4) The impact of intelligence and information availability; and,
- 5) Such other facts and circumstances which may be relevant to the appropriate security management of the United States missions abroad.

The Honorable
Lindsey O. Graham,
United States Senate.

The Board is also charged with making program recommendations as appropriate to improve the security and efficiency of any program or operation which the Board has reviewed. In addition, if the Board finds reasonable cause to believe that an individual, as defined by Section 303(a)(1)(B) of the Act, has breached his or her duty, the Board shall notify the individual and Federal agency concerned, with a recommendation of appropriate investigatory or disciplinary action.

Consistent with the Act, the Board's deliberations are confidential to preserve the integrity and objectivity of the work. The Secretary, however, has shared with the Board the same intentions she has shared with members of Congress: that she "intend[s] to share the ARB's findings and our response with the Congress." We therefore look forward to our report addressing those questions that are within the Board's statutory mandate when we conclude our work later this month.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas R. Pickering", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Thomas R. Pickering
Chairman

Accountability Review Board - Benghazi